

HITF INTERPRETATION DECEMBER 2006 NO. 2

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SUBJECT/BACKGROUND: Smoking Policies.

Many nursing homes are establishing no smoking policies. This results in both staff and patients who want to smoke to smoke outside. Life safety surveyors are now requiring that the outside smoking areas comply with Sections 18 & 19.7.4 of the 2000 *Life Safety Code*. Specifically, the surveyors are requiring that the outside smoking areas be provided with noncombustible ashtrays of safe design and that metal containers with self closing covers be readily available to each outside smoking area.

Question 1: Do the requirements of Sections 18 & 19.7.4 apply to designated smoking areas outside the building?

Answer: YES.

Question 2: If the answer to Question #1 is yes, is there a distance away from the building in which the requirements of Sections 18 & 19.7.4 would not apply?

Answer: NO.